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REMARKS

Claims 8 is pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-7 are cancelled without prejudice and new claim 8 has been added. No new matter has been added. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claim 8 is in immediate condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The primary reference used in the rejection was U.S. Patent No. 6,501,968 ("Ichimura"). Applicant's cancellation of claims 1-7, without prejudice, renders this rejection moot. However, Applicant will address the Ichimura reference with respect to pending claim 8.

According to the present specification, a plurality of different voltage levels are set for a plurality of additional functions requiring operation voltages different from that for a talking function. Additionally, each of these voltage levels are different from each other. A different alarm is issued for each of the additional functions requiring different operating voltages. The Ichimura reference fails to disclose additional supervisory voltage levels set for each of the individual operating voltages. As such, claim 8 is allowable over the Ichimura reference.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the

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Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: September 14, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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